In the Specification:

Replace the paragraphs beginning at page 2, line 15, through page 4, line 36 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

According to the present invention, there is provided a system for facilitating aggregate purchasing of products, in the form of designated goods or services, the system comprising:

a plurality of user client devices for use by potential purchasers of said products;

a plurality of supplier client devices for use by potential sellers of said products; and

a database server system communicating with said plurality of user client devices and said plurality of supplier client devices; said database server system being designed and programmed:

(a) to maintain a catalog of products identifying each and to make said catalog available to potential purchasers via their respective client devices;

(b) to enable potential purchasers to use their respective user client devices to become members of at least one purchasers group of potential purchasers of designated products by assuming an obligation to purchase a said product at a price no higher than a specified maximum price;

(c) to formulate a bid request for a designated quantity of a designated product for purchase by said purchasers group at a price no higher than the respective maximum price;

(d) to present said bid request to a plurality of potential sellers via their respective supplier client devices;

(e) to enable potential sellers to use their respective supplier client devices to tender offers regarding purchase conditions for the sale of the designated quantity of the designated product in the formulated bid request;

(f) to determine the best selling conditions offered by said sellers; and

(g) to make an award to the potential seller offering the best selling conditions for the sale of the designated quantity of the designated product.

According to features in the described preferred embodiment, the award is made to the potential seller offering the lowest selling price for the sale of the designated quantity of the designated product.

According to further features in the described preferred embodiments, the designated product may be a specifically identified good or service, or one of several specifically identified goods or services. The designated product may also be identified by a specification.

It may also be an option for a specifically identified good or service, or may be a group of specifically identified goods or services bundled together as a single product package.

According to still further features in the described preferred embodiment, the database server system is programmed to enable potential purchasers to use their respective user client devices within a specified time period to become members of a said purchasers group, or to enable potential sellers to use their respective supplier client devices within a specified time period to tender a said offer.

According to still further features in the embodiment of the invention described below, the database server system is programmed to enable a plurality of

potential sellers to use their respective supplier client devices to tender joint bids regarding the designated quantity of the designated product in a formulated bid request, or to enable a plurality of groups of purchasers to use their respective user client devices to become members of any one of a plurality of said purchasers groups.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring now to the drawings, Figure 1 illustrates the system of the present invention which is referred to herein as system **10**. System **10** is designed for facilitating aggregate purchasing of products in the form of designated goods or services. It comprises: a plurality of user client devices 14 for use by potential purchasers of the products; a plurality of supplier client devices **18** for use by potential sellers of the products; and a database server system **12** communicating with the plurality of user client devices **14** and the plurality of supplier client devices **18**. As will be described more particularly below, the data server system **12** is designed and programmed

    (a) to maintain a catalog of products, and to make said catalog available to potential purchasers via their respective client devices;

    (b) to enable potential purchasers to use their respective user client devices to become members of at least one purchasers group of potential purchasers of designated products by assuming an obligation to purchase a said product at a price no higher than a specified maximum price;

    (c) to formulate a bid request for a designated quantity of a designated product for purchase by said purchasers group at a price no higher than the specified maximum price;

(d) to present said bid request to a plurality of potential sellers via their respective supplier client devices;

(e) to enable potential sellers to use their respective supplier client devices to tender offers regarding purchase conditions for the sale of the designated quantity of the designated product in the formulated bid request;

(f) to determine the best selling conditions offered by said potential sellers; and

(g) to make an award to the potential seller offering the best selling conditions for the sale of the designated quantity of the designated product.

In the description below, the user client devices 14 are sometimes referred to as "user clients"; the supplier client devices 18 are sometimes referred to as "supplier clients"; and the purchasers groups are sometimes referred to as "shoppers groups".